

County of Los Angeles **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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> Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

YVONNE B. BURKE Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY Third District

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH Fifth District

September 9, 2008

To:

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair

Supervisor Gloria Molina Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

State Budget Update

The Senate met yesterday to consider AB 1793, the Senate Republicans' Budget Plan which, as previously reported, proposes to: 1) reject the Governor's temporary sales tax increase proposal; 2) borrow \$2.0 billion in FY 2008-09 from the securitization of the existing lottery; 3) increase program reductions above the Governor's August Compromise proposal by an estimated \$1.6 billion which would primarily affect health and human services programs; and 4) approve a budget reform proposal which would establish a spending cap, strengthen the rainy day fund, and grant mid-year budget authority to the Governor. After considerable debate, AB 1793 failed passage on a partisan vote of 13 to 21.

The Senate Republicans' Budget Plan was also amended into SB 1087 and taken up on the Assembly Floor this afternoon, but the final outcome was the same as in the Senate. The measure was defeated on a partisan vote of 27 to 45. It has now been over 70 days since the start of the fiscal year, and the State Budget stalemate continues with no apparent end in sight.

The Governor's August Compromise proposal, which was summarized in the Sacramento Update of August 21, 2008, was amended into SB 1072 with the expectation that the measure will be taken up on the Assembly Floor over the next Each Supervisor September 9, 2008 Page 2

couple of days. However, it is anticipated that this measure will also be defeated because it includes the proposed sales tax increase which Republicans oppose, and additional program reductions and components of the budget reform proposal that Democrats oppose.

Pursuit of Urgency Legislation Prior to Adjournment of the Legislature

The County Sacramento advocates are working with the California State Association of Counties and the California Mental Health Directors Association to seek urgency legislation to replace County-supported SB 292 (Wiggins) which failed passage last week. This urgency legislation, like SB 292, would hold counties harmless for past payments for treatment services provided to severely emotionally disturbed (SED) children in out-of-state facilities. It would allow continuation of these services and payments for three years to allow the Legislature and Governor to evaluate this policy and make any warranted changes while minimizing the disruption of services to these SED children. Recent audits by the State Controller have rejected payments to two counties notwithstanding the fact that these payments are allowed under Federal law and have been made without question for over 10 years. Therefore, consistent with County support for SB 292, the Sacramento advocates will pursue passage of urgency legislation including the provisions of that bill prior to adjournment of the Legislature.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK MR:MS:lm

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations